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## NEWS AND NOTES

Professor W. C. Coker, of the University of North Carolina, spent several days at the Garden early in August consulting the mycological herbarium and library in preparation of a work on the more conspicuous fungi occurring in the vicinity of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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Mr. Percy Wilson spent the month of July at Arkville, New York, and obtained a number of interesting specimens of fungi. Arkville is one of the most northerly stations in the local flora range.

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Professor H. S. Jackson, formerly head of the department of botany and plant pathology of the Oregon Agricultural College, has recently been appointed chief in botany at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. Professor Jackson entered upon his new duties at Lafayette on September 1, 1915.

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Dr. Lewis Sherman, president of the Wisconsin Mycological Society, died on July 2 from heart disease which developed during the winter. He was not only an enthusiastic and painstaking mycologist, but also had a good general knowledge of botany and knew intimately most of the plants of his region. Mr. Julius Bleyer, assistant editor of "The Evening Wisconsin," succeeds Dr. Sherman as president of the Wisconsin Mycological Society.

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*Rheosporangium aphanidermatum*, a new species and new genus belonging to the Saprolegniaceae, is described by H. A. Edson in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for July. The fungus is a parasite causing damping off of the seedlings of sugar beets and black rot of radish.

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The chestnut canker has been discovered on freshly fallen chestnuts by J. Franklin Collins, who gives a brief account of his dis-

covery and subsequent confirmatory experiments in *Phytopathology* for August, 1915. It is hardly necessary to suggest that this has an important bearing on the introduction of the disease into far distant localities.

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A large collection of tough and woody fungi was made in the hammocks of southern Florida by Dr. J. K. Small, Head Curator, during February and March, 1915, including two tropical species new to the United States and two Gulf Coast species new to the subtropical part of Florida. *Favolus variegatus*, locally known as "spirit-cups," was found to occur in great abundance, often reaching a foot in diameter.

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Twenty-three new species and several new varieties of fungi from North America are described by P. A. Saccardo in a recent number of *Annales Mycologici*. The fungi listed in the article, of which there are eighty-eight in all from North America, were collected in New York by H. D. House, in Canada by John Dearness, and in North Dakota by J. F. Brenckle.

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A memoir of the Torrey Botanical Club issued in June, 1915, consists of a monograph by A. H. Chivers of the genera *Chaetomium* and *Ascotricha*. Twenty-eight species of *Chaetomium*, two of which are new, and two species of *Ascotricha* are described. The memoir contains ninety-five pages of text and is illustrated by seventeen heliotype plates. All of the species are illustrated and the drawings, made by the author, are excellent. The work is a most valuable one for all students of ascomycetes.

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A recent paper by J. R. Weir in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* deals with the possible economic importance of *Wallrothiella Arceuthobii*, a fungus which is parasitic on false mistletoe. The fungus has not previously been well known, having been reported only twice and from widely separated localities. The presence of the fungus prevents the maturing of the seeds of the host and in this way tends to retard the mistletoe, which is very destructive to the conifers in the West.

The present season has been exceptionally early and good for fungi of all kinds, owing to the fact that the frost was out of the ground much earlier than usual and the rains have been heavy and frequent. Work on the local fungi by Dr. Murrill has been continuous and many interesting forms, some of them new, have been collected, described, and figured. Dr. Seaver has not only obtained many interesting discomycetes in the vicinity of New York City, but has spent several weeks collecting about Portland, Connecticut.

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A NEW MEPHITIC CLAUDOPUS

**Claudopus mephiticus** sp. nov.

Pileus eccentric, convex to nearly plane, somewhat depressed at the center, cespitose, 2.5–5 cm. broad; surface dry, glabrous, slightly concentrically sulcate, greenish-white when young, dull-white or yellowish-white when old, margin concolorous, undulate; context white, with a very decided mephitic or garlic odor and taste; lamellae sinuate, subdistant, broad, slightly serrate on the edges, white, becoming rose-colored at maturity; spores angular, rose-colored, uniguttulate,  $9 \times 7 \mu$ ; stipe short, subcylindric, very eccentric, solid, pruinose, white, 1–1.5 cm. long, 4–6 mm. thick.

Type collected on fallen dead branches in Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 30, 1915, by *Mrs. M. W. Smith*. Complete descriptive notes were made from the fresh specimens by Dr. Mary S. Whetstone, who sent me a copy of them with some of the specimens under her accession number 60. The species seems nearest to *Claudopus depluens*, but is much larger and has a very decided mephitic or garlic odor both in the fresh and dried state. *Claudopus nidulans* is said to have a similar odor, but it must be much less decided and, furthermore, the additional charm of conspicuously angled spores is entirely lacking.

W. A. MURRILL.

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NOTES ON AGARICUS RETICEPS Mont.

An excellent specimen of this plant was sent me in July, 1914, by the late Dr. Lewis Sherman, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and I was able to make a careful study of it before it had entirely dried.

The previous summer, I had examined Montagne's type at Paris from Columbus, Ohio, and compared it with specimens sent me by Dr. Mary Whetstone from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and by Dr. Bruce Fink from Oxford, Ohio. The specimens at Albany have also been examined. *Panus meruliiceps* Peck was described from specimens collected by Dr. Glatfelter on trunks of elm trees at St. Louis, Missouri. The original specimens of *Agaricus reticulatus* Johnson, collected on Nicollet Island, Michigan, are lost, but his description clearly refers to the plant under discussion.

The plant occurs sparingly on fallen dead deciduous trunks, especially of elm, in Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan; and possibly also in parts of Europe. *Collybia retigera* Bres. is also beautifully reticulate, but is quite distinct.

The proper relationship of this species has been a matter of considerable doubt, as is evidenced by the fact that it has figured in several different genera. The spores are rough but not angular, hyaline, slightly yellowish in mass, assuming a pale-rosy tint on exposure, reminding one of some species of *Pleurotus*. The context is too tough for *Pleurotus*, *Tricholoma*, or *Clitocybe*, or even for *Collybia*, hence *Lentinula* is probably the best place for it, although the species is aberrant in several particulars.

***Lentinula reticeps* (Mont.) comb. nov.**

*Agaricus* (*Clitocybe*) *reticeps* Mont. Syll. Crypt. 101. 1856.

*Agaricus* (*Tricholoma*) *reticulatus* Johnson, Bull. Minn. Acad.

1: 354. 1880.

*Agaricus alveolatus* Cragin, Jour. Myc. 1: 28. 1885.

*Pluteus alveolatus* Sacc. Syll. Fung. 5: 679. 1887.

*Panus meruliiceps* Peck, Bull. Torrey Club 32: 78. 1905.

Pileus fleshy-tough with the cuticle somewhat gelatinous, firm, convex or depressed, cespitose, 3 cm. or more broad; surface glabrous, sometimes viscid, rarely smooth, usually beautifully reticulate with elevated, anastomosing ridges, salmon-colored or pale-brick-red tinged with yellow in the center, margin involute; context pinkish, without characteristic odor, but with a sweetish taste; lamellae fleshy-tough, salmon-colored, adnate or slightly decur-

rent with a tooth, rounded behind, the bases slightly connected, close, narrow; spores globose, echinulate-tuberculate, hyaline, 5-7  $\mu$ ; stipe tough, glabrous, white to pallid, ochroleucous below, blackish at the base, grooved, central or eccentric, curved, solid, fibrous, 2.5-4 cm. long, 5-12 mm. thick.

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